



THE MACKINAC

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF MICHIGAN'S SIERRA CLUB

 FEBRUARY - APRIL 2000



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A wintercamper skis through fresh powder on the North Country Trail in the Upper Peninsula's Betsy Lake Natural Area, Luce County

PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL NEIGER

THE MACKINAC QUARTERLY

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COALITION OF GROUPS HONORS MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

SAYS DEQ SHOULD STOP OBSTRUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

BY ALISON HORTON

Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

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Alison Horton, Sept. 29, 1999

Last month, the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC)—comprised of community, public health, faith-based, and environmental organizations including the Sierra Club—called on Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to put an end to its campaign to obstruct environmental justice.

At the same time—in honor of the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday—health, economic development, and civil rights experts and organizations representing residents in affected communities across the country held a press conference and briefing in Washington, DC, declaring a “national state of emergency on environmental racism and economic injustice.” This event launched a nationwide effort to protect and advance policies to ensure equal rights to a clean, healthy environment for all people.

In Detroit, the Michigan DEQ held a public meeting on environmental justice that environmental justice advocates saw as just one more effort on the part of the agency to create the illusion of public participation. “The DEQ meeting is nothing more than a smoke screen for the State of Michigan's efforts to undermine the goals of assuring a clean, safe environment for all people,” said Donele Wilkins of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice. “Here in Michigan, sadly, state government is one of our biggest obstacles to securing equal rights to a clean environment for everyone.”

Quita Sullivan, of the National Lawyers' Guild/Sugar Law Center, commented, “It is an affront that, while people in neighborhoods all across Detroit and communities across Michigan suffer from disproportionate health risks from polluting facilities, the state's environmental agency dismisses people's

see JUSTICE page 8

RECENT REPORTS PAINT CLEAR PICTURE OF SUBURBAN SPRAWL'S IMPACT

STATISTICS CONFIRM DAY-TO-DAY EXPERIENCES



BY DAN FAROUGH
Mackinac Chapter Member Involvement Director

The close of 1999 saw the release of a multitude of suburban sprawl studies and reports which confirm statistically what people experience first-hand in their day-to-day lives—that traffic problems and farmland loss are out of control and urban decline continues. This growing synthesis between real-world experience and scientific evidence is fueling a frantic effort among organizations that defend the status quo to divert public attention and create insincere reports and facts. But facts are hard to deny, and personal experience even harder to ignore.

CONFIRMING WHAT WE KNOW

Traffic is perhaps the clearest indicator of sprawl to most people—it's no secret that it's getting worse. People complain continuously of time wasted in jams and of rising road rage. Recent studies by the Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP) and the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) confirm in horrific detail what people observe on a daily basis. The STPP Congestion Report concludes that while population increased by 22 million in the 68 metro areas studied since 1982, the roads have been inundated with the equivalent of 70 million more drivers. This is not, of course, due to a 'baby boom' in the number of 16 year olds, but instead due to people spending more time on roads as they drive longer distances between work and home and running errands. The report observes that many metro areas are adding highway lanes faster than they are acquiring residents. The Detroit metro area ranked 9th worst in this area—with a 5% population increase, but a 21% increase in miles of highway!

MOBILITY DATA
METRO DETROIT, MICHIGAN
ANNUAL HOURS OF DELAY IN TRAFFIC AND EXCESS FUEL CONSUMED (PER DRIVER)

YEAR	HOURS OF DELAY IN TRAFFIC	EXCESS FUEL CONSUMED
1982	23	35
1983	24	36
1984	27	41
1985	29	44
1986	30	46
1987	34	50
1988	40	60
1989	44	66
1990	48	72
1991	47	70
1992	52	79
1993	57	84
1994	53	79
1995	53	80
1996	58	86
1997	62	92

SOURCE: TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

Despite the surge in new roads, TTI mobility data demonstrates that the average Detroit-area driver went from spending 23 hours stuck in traffic in 1982 to 62 hours in 1997, making Southeast Michigan the 6th worst in the nation. In addition, the average Detroit-area driver burnt an additional 92 gallons of gasoline stuck in traffic due to the impact of sprawl, up from 35 gallons in 1982. Adding more roads to those we are already failing to maintain is clearly not the answer.

In addition to the traffic problem, suburban sprawl is claiming another victim that many on the borders of urban and rural areas witness continuously—the loss of farmland, openland, and wildlands. Michigan ranked 8th in the nation according to data released by

The STPP Congestion Report observes that many metro areas are adding highway lanes faster than they are acquiring residents. The Detroit metro area ranked 9th worst in this area—with a 5% population increase, but a 21% increase in miles of highway!

the US Department of Agriculture, losing an average of 110,160 acres each year between 1992 and 1997, with heavy losses occurring in prime growing regions. This loss of open space is particularly damaging to lakes and rivers like the

Clinton River in Southeast Michigan, which suffers from increased polluted run-off and a decline in natural filters such as wetlands.

It's no secret that as the population spreads out from urban areas that these areas will have a harder time maintaining essential services. While many urban areas like Detroit have made significant gains in addressing problems such as crime and attracting high profile investments, in the areas that require coordination with surrounding communities, such as land use planning, decline continues. The Michigan Bipartisan Urban Caucus' recent study, The Status of Michigan Cities, shows that between 1990 and 1996 Michigan cities experienced a population loss between 1.3% and 17.2%. In addition, while unemployment rates dropped from previous years to 5.0% in 1998, surrounding counties dropped faster, to 3.67%. Even with some important gains, the gap between suburbs and cities continues to widen.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

What all this points to is that old attitudes pitting suburbs against cities are outdated and mutually destructive. While cities lose population and struggle to maintain essential services, suburbs are inundated and face an erosion of the quality of life



BY ANNE WOIWODE

Director, Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program

Michigan ended the 20th Century in a tug of war over what has emerged as one of the worst environmental problems nationwide: large scale livestock factories, a.k.a. confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The Legislature and Governor John Engler have come down firmly on the side of uncontrolled expansion of livestock factories by enacting a law which removes the last vestige of regulatory control over these facilities. The Sierra Club, the Michigan Land Use Institute and the Michigan Environmental Council are fighting back with a petition for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take away Michigan's authority over CAFOs.

There is little doubt 2000 will be the Year of the Hog in Michigan.

SENATE BILL 205: SAY GOOD-BYE TO LOCAL CONTROL

Over the years, the Michigan Right to Farm Act has evolved to place CAFOs entirely under voluntary standards enforced by the state on a complaint basis, with complainants frequently told by state officials that no problem exists. Local governments stepped in to pass ordinances regulating CAFOs after it was clear state agencies were not going to protect communities from the stench and water pollution caused by these facilities. When SB 205 is implemented in June, it will remove the only remaining option for regulation of these massive polluters by preempting local ordinances.

In October and November hundreds of people turned out to protest SB 205, primarily because the state has abdicated its responsibility to regulate CAFOs. Even getting a chance to be heard was hard for opponents of SB 205—at an early-morning hearing of the House Agriculture and Resource Management Committee in Lansing, more than 100 people were denied a chance to testify about the bill when Committee Chairman Mike Green chose to move SB 205 without heeding requests to testify. This was the second hearing held by the committee, and many who attended had also been denied a chance to speak at the hearing the week before.

Responding to intense opposition to SB 205 within his district, House Speaker Charles Perricone sponsored a town hall meeting in

Kalamazoo that attracted more than 300 people. After 2 1/2 hours of testimony from a crowd overwhelmingly opposed to SB 205, however, the Speaker announced a deal had already been cut prior to the meeting. As was the case with every "deal" offered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) or the Michigan Farm Bureau regarding SB 205, the proposed changes provided no regulation of CAFOs, while providing superficial and meaningless gestures to township officials.

SB 205 was the last bill passed in the House in the 20th century, passing at 4:45am on the second-to-last day of the session. Even at that late hour, a vigorous debate about this bill ensued. An amendment to allow continued local control over the largest CAFOs was proposed but shot down. Commitments were made on the floor that a subcommittee would investigate the impacts of these massive facilities, but as we go to press no committee has been appointed. The final vote mostly followed party lines, with a handful of Republicans opposing preemption, and several Democrats joining the Republicans to pass the bill.

After passing the House in the wee hours of Thursday, December 9th, the bill was rushed over to the Senate later that morning and rules were suspended to allow it to be heard. An amendment to allow local control to continue over the largest CAFOs was supported by an unusual bipartisan group, but the amendment failed. The House-passed version of SB 205 was concurred in by the Senate—thereby avoiding a conference committee—and

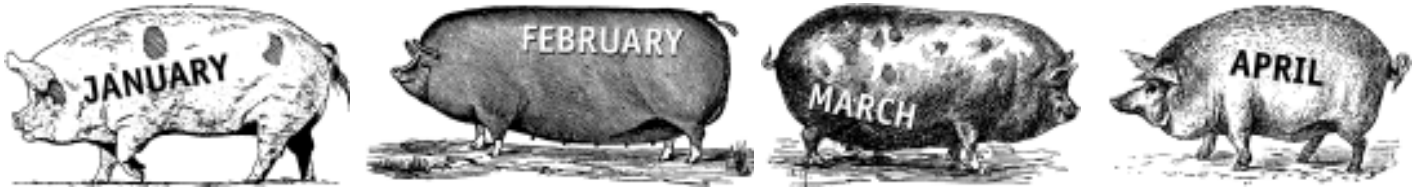
the bill was sent to the Governor.

On December 28th Governor Engler signed the preemption of local control over CAFOs into law. The law will go into effect on June 1, at which time all conflicting local ordinances will be preempted. According to the statute, the MDA is required to adopt new Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPS) as the voluntary standards before that time, supposedly adding odor and siting issues to the list of guidance provided.

continued on next page

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FIGHTING BACK

Throughout debate on SB 205, a coalition of township officials, family farmers, and environmentalists have worked to stop Michigan from sliding further down the regulatory ladder on CAFO controls. On November 1, 1999, three environmental organizations escalated their efforts, asking the US Environmental Protection Agency to revoke Michigan's delegated authority to regulate CAFOs under the federal Clean Water Act. Joining the three groups in a press conference calling on the state to clean up its act were family farmers, a township official, and experts from other states pointing out that Michigan is way out of step with the rest of the nation on CAFOs.

David Knight of North Carolina said that laws passed in his state in the early 1990's removed local zoning control over CAFOs and contributed significantly to compounding the disaster caused by Hurricane Floyd. The siting of animal operations, manure lagoons, and spray-fields in floodplains came about as a result of the override by the legislature of local controls in the early 1990's. In the flooding caused by the hurricane, Knight noted that "millions of poultry were killed, and from 300,000 to 500,000 hogs were killed. Possibly 100 lagoons were inundated by floodwaters. An estimated 100 million gallons of hog waste was discharged into the waters of the state."

Mississippi's Louie Miller explained that his state started down the same path as Michigan but soon realized just what a catastrophe they were courting. "Within two years rural residents, local farmers, churches, schools, and county and municipal governments were crying foul" and the legislature reversed its removal of local controls. According to Miller, "For Michigan to believe they can treat this corporate industry as though they are family farms is a huge mistake." Mississippi is now not only requiring water pollution permits for CAFOs, they will soon require air quality permits as well.

Ken Midkiff, Coordinator, Sierra Club Clean Water Campaign explained that "many states—South Carolina, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri—have taken assertive stances and have passed laws designed to bring industrial-strength livestock operation under the regulatory umbrella. Other states have gone even further and have invoked moratoria on new or expanding CAFOs—such states as Oklahoma, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Kentucky. What has been the response of the state of Michigan? 'Voluntary programs administered by the Department of Agriculture'...and a stance of

stubborn resistance to implementing and enforcing federal laws by your Department of Environmental Quality."

While SB 205 will worsen Michigan's control over CAFOs, the petition submitted to EPA Administrator Carol Browner by the Sierra Club's Mackinac Chapter, the Michigan Land Use Institute, and the Michigan Environmental Council spells out in detail that Michigan is already out of compliance with state and federal regulations. The request for revocation of Michigan's delegation under the Clean Water Act "has become necessary because the State of Michigan is failing to meet its nondiscretionary obligations under the Clean Water Act and is pursuing an aggressive course of resistance to either correcting existing problems or implementing reasonable regulatory standards... The record of Michigan's Administration (Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Department of Agriculture (MDA)) and the course being set by the Michigan Legislature in the quest for passage of Michigan Senate Bill 205 make it clear that State officials are unwilling to adopt or implement even the minimal requisite regulatory standards for assuring that the water, air and soil and the public health of the people of the Great Lakes State are kept uncontaminated by livestock wastes."

The petition cited: the state's refusal to issue water quality permits for CAFOs, even when directed to do so by the USEPA; the Michigan Right to Farm Act's im-

proper transfer of authority over CAFOs from MDEQ to the MDA; the state's failure to prevent discharge of wastes into the waters of the state; and the state's failure to provide for public participation mandated under the Clean Water Act.

The EPA is currently reviewing the petition, and is also taking its own steps to bring Michigan into compliance. In correspondence with the state in 1999, the USEPA clearly delineated the state's failure to come into compliance with EPA guidance on CAFOs. A November 3rd letter from the EPA Region V Administrator laid out specific steps for addressing those failures, linking those corrections to the request by MDEQ for annual programmatic funds that come to the state under the Clean Water Act. As we go to press, the DEQ has reportedly responded to the EPA's letter, but the content of their response was not available. ☹

For more information about this issue, contact Anne Woiwode at the Chapter Office, 517-484-2372.

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THANK YOU!

GUARDIANS, PROTECTORS, AND DEFENDERS OF THE PENINSULAS

At this time we'd like to acknowledge the Guardians, Protectors, and Defenders of the Peninsulas for 1999. These generous contributions support the Sierra Club's campaigns here in Michigan—advocating for protection of our forests and other natural areas, for our Great Lakes and water quality, and for fighting harmful pollution and the damage caused by urban sprawl and poorly-planned development.

Our Peninsula donors directly support the Mackinac Chapter's dedicated staff and talented volunteers who are taking action every day—at the state capitol, in communities, and in the field—to protect the environment through lobbying, research, public education, and litigation.

Please join us in expressing our sincere gratitude to each of these individuals for their generous support for, and commitment to, Michigan's environment and natural heritage. ♻️

GUARDIANS of the Peninsulas (\$500 +)

Clifton and Kay Edwards
Joseph and Helen Featherstone
Elizabeth and Russell Gowland
Helen and Al LeBlanc
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Julia S. Morris
Gwen and John Nystuen
Nancy Shiffler
Anne and Tom Woiwode
One anonymous donation

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continued on next page

GET HEALTHY, HENRY!

BY ANNA HOLDEN
SouthEast Michigan Group



PHOTO: MARY BETH DOYLE

James Williams, community member, and Anna Holden of the Sierra Club.

In honor of the Great American Smokeout, protesters raised a banner across the street from Henry Ford Hospital that states "Stop Smoking Henry Ford, Shut Down Your Incinerator." More than 30 people showed up at the November 18 rally—organized by a coalition of southeast Michigan groups, including the Sierra Club—to raise the banner and awareness about the Henry Ford Hospital incinerator. The banner has remained up for over two months. Henry Ford disposes of almost all its waste by burning it on-site at one of the largest hospital incinerators in the state. Michigan's largest on-site hospital incinerator, at the University of Michigan Hospitals, is scheduled to be shut down at the end of this year. ♣

THANK YOU *continued from page 6*

Dr. Benjamin H. Pringle
Joseph Ritok
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Robert F. Rudd
Bruce Sagan
Mr. Richard A. Scott
Sandy and Sarah Simon
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Christine Weisblat
Mr. Todd S. Wilkinson
Dr. Earl R. Williams
Frank Zupancic
Nineteen anonymous donations

IN MEMORY OF RUTH FRACK

On November 9, the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club received a monetary gift sent by Ruth Frack's Arbor View neighbors on behalf of their belated friend. Ruth died on November 2, 1999 and was always interested in preserving the environment.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL-STATE-NATIONAL-GLOBAL SIERRA CLUB!

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Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
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Expiration Date ____ / ____

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	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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MACKINAC CHAPTER OFFICE IS MOVING DONATIONS NEEDED

COME SEE US!

The Mackinac Chapter office is moving—and we are excited to report that we are a part of the urban revitalization of Lansing's Old Town. We are relocating to storefront space in a building under renovation. Our new office will give the Sierra Club great public exposure and will provide convenient meeting space. Come see us after we move in May!



In the meantime, we have a wish list: if you can help us find any of the following items as donations, please contact the office by phone at 517-484-2372 or via e-mail at mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org.



Thank you for anything you can do to help us out! Our new address will be 109 East Grand River in Lansing.



THINGS WE NEED:

Copying machine

Conference table(s)

Chairs

Bookshelves

Couch and reception area chairs

Appropriate artwork

Utility tables

Other office items



JUSTICE

continued from page 2

health concerns and obstructs efforts to put environmental justice policies in place.”

The MEJC submitted comments on “Environmental Justice Workgroup Recommendations” which had been developed under the auspices of the DEQ. The Coalition charged that the Recommendations completely fail to provide a framework for the state to fulfill its environmental justice responsibilities. The Recommendations are silent on key principles: the need to restore air and water quality in affected neighborhoods; the need to reduce risk of exposure to harmful pollution; the need for concrete remedies that allow people to participate democratically in decisions that affect them; the need for good quality jobs and real community benefits as a part of industrial development; the need for precautionary measures when addressing people’s cumulative exposure to pollution.

“This so-called ‘environmental justice’ document and the process the state DEQ initiated to develop it are riddled with problems,” noted DWEJ’s Wilkins. “The DEQ staked out its position on environmental justice some time ago, characterizing the issue as ‘environmental sensationalism,’ one-sidedly advocating on behalf of business interests, and organizing opposition to US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) guidance. It is hardly surprising that this exercise failed to bring all interests to the table in a fair and balanced way from the beginning. And it is not surprising that it failed to call for action to address key problems of environmental justice.”

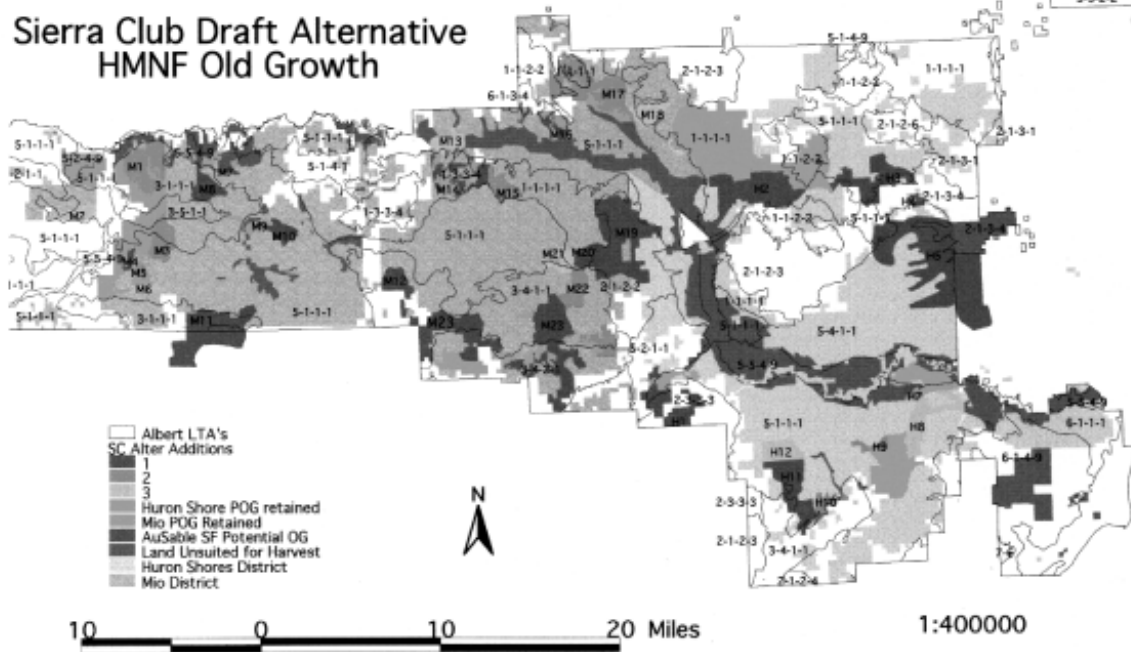
MEJC organizations—including Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, NLG/Sugar Law Center, ACCESS, Ecology Center, the Michigan Sierra Club, the American Lung Association of Michigan, Groundwork for a Just World, and St. Francis Prayer Center, among others—believed it was appropriate to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday by calling on the Department of Environmental Quality to start carrying out its responsibilities to assure environmental justice for all Michigan residents. The campaign to make the public aware of environmental inequities and the state of Michigan’s failure to uphold its responsibilities is a long-term project.

“The DEQ staked out its position on environmental justice some time ago, characterizing the issue as ‘environmental sensationalism,’ one-sidedly advocating on behalf of business interests, and organizing opposition to US EPA guidance.”

Take Action!

If you are interested in being involved in the Michigan Sierra Club’s work on environmental justice, contact Alison Horton at the chapter office: 517-484-2372, or Anna Holden of the Southeast Michigan Group: 313-331-0932.

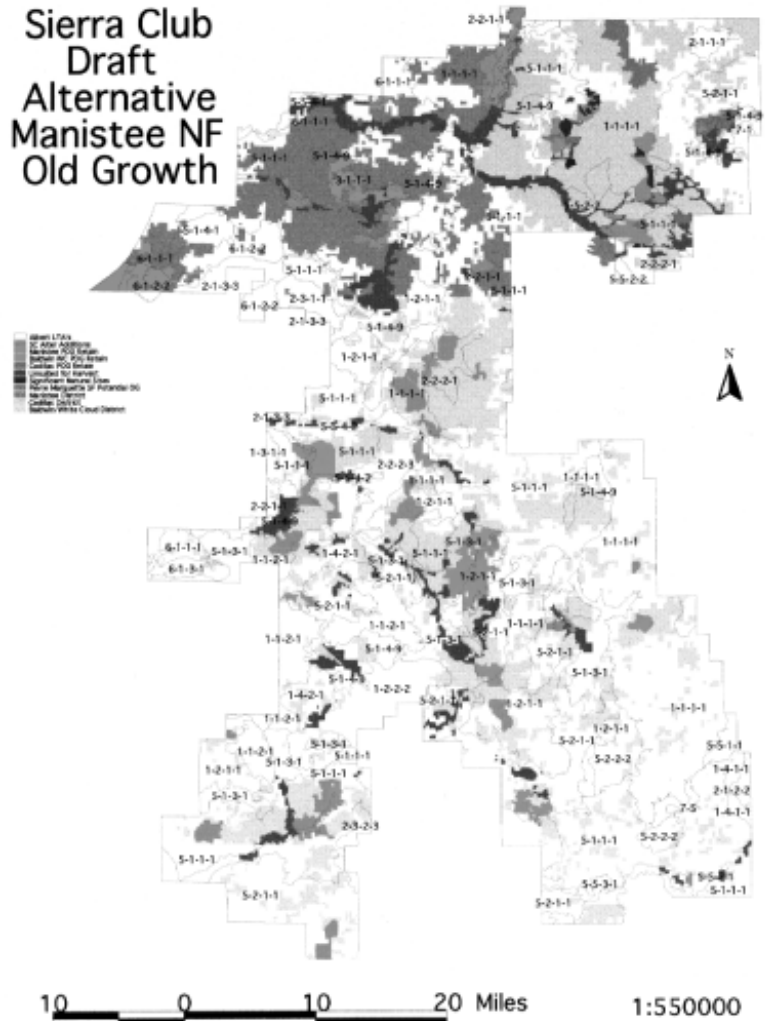
Sierra Club Draft Alternative HMNF Old Growth



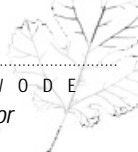
SIERRA CLUB PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FOREST OLD GROWTH DESIGN

More than twenty Sierra Club members, led by Tim Flynn of Goodhart, have devoted hundreds of hours during the past year to discussing criteria and collecting on-the-ground information about potential old growth areas in the Huron National Forest (eastside) and the Manistee National Forest (westside) in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The resulting map, prepared by Flynn, has been submitted to the Huron-Manistee National Forest as Sierra Club's recommended alternative in the old growth designation Environmental Assessment process. For more detail and updates on the next steps in the process, check out the Mackinac Chapter's website at www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mi.

Sierra Club Draft Alternative Manistee NF Old Growth



MICHIGAN FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM



ANNE WOIWODE
Program Director

MARVIN ROBERSON
Project Consultant

FALL 1999 SAW TWO NATIONWIDE ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN MEETINGS ON MICHIGAN'S NATIONAL FORESTS.

NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING REGULATIONS

On December 1 the public was invited to provide comment in Grayling on proposed new regulations to govern planning on the nation's 119 National Forests. Each National Forest is required to have a Land and Resource Management Plan and to update it every 10 to 15 years. Twice before, draft planning regulations have been put out for public comment, then withdrawn as the result of political pressure.

Planning regulations set the steps National Forests are to take when managing these public lands—including how to solicit and address public comments and what scientific, economic, and other information must be considered in preparing and adopting the plans. All three Michigan National Forests have had plan revisions delayed as a result of Congressional directives holding up plan revision funding until new regulations were adopted.

The Grayling meeting site was one of two held in the Great Lakes states, and attracted mainly participants from Michigan. Written comments will be accepted by the Forest Service on these draft regulations until February 3. To see the draft regulations and get more information about the process, check out the Forest Service website at www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/rule.

ROADLESS AREA PROPOSAL

On October 13, President Clinton directed the Forest Service to conduct an environmental review of roadless lands in National Forests nationwide, with a goal of determining how these lands should be managed. The proposal built upon a two-year-old Forest Service initiative addressing the enormous environmental and financial costs incurred in building new roads and maintaining existing roads on National Forests nationwide.

Clinton's directive led to Forest Service scoping meetings in every National Forest nationwide, as well as

meetings in Washington and Regional Forest Service offices. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to be released in the spring with additional opportunities for public input. A final decision on whether to restrict or prohibit roadbuilding activities within roadless areas is expected next winter. A second part of the decision will be procedures and criteria on roadless areas for each National Forest to use in development of Forest Plans and amendments.

In Michigan, the Forest Service says that less than 1/2 of one percent of National Forest land (16,000 out of 2.7 million acres of National Forest lands) would be affected by the roadless proposal. However, mid-December hearings held in Ewen, Manistique, and Cadillac attracted large crowds due to aggressive recruiting by snowmobile and off-road vehicle organizations and Michigan United Conservation Clubs—all of whom oppose any consideration of additional protections for roadless areas. Many of the comments offered, however, showed significant misinterpretation of the proposal. Some opponents claimed that wildlife requires timber management to survive, and others objected to closing any roads or trails anywhere in the forests. Some objected to the proposal because they felt the process should be part of the Plan Revisions on each National Forest instead of done through a national mandate.

Supporters of additional protection of Roadless Areas, including Sierra Club activists, pointed to growing scientific documentation of the importance of protected areas for biological diversity protection. In addition, they noted that almost 10,000 miles of forest roads already exist in Michigan's three National Forests that the Forest Service cannot afford to maintain, and that the Huron-Manistee National Forest can't even determine how many miles of roads it currently has because of illegal road building. Sierra Club leaders called for the agency to consider expanding their proposed action to include closing more

Many of the comments offered showed significant misinterpretation of the [roadless area] proposal. Some opponents claimed that wildlife requires timber management to survive, and others objected to closing any roads or trails anywhere in the forests.



MFBP
continued from page 10

roads on National Forest lands in Michigan for both fiscal and ecological reasons.

The Forest Service reports that more than 400,000 comments on this proposal were received nationwide by the December 20th scoping deadline. The Forest Service website (roadless.fs.fed.us) will provide information about the draft EIS when it is made available this spring. The Sierra Club's national Wildlands Campaign is providing information on the Club's website at www.sierraclub.org. For information contact Anne Woiwode at the Chapter office, 517-484-2372.

UPDATES

SIERRA CLUB PREPARES TO SUE USF&WS

As reported in the November 1999 issue, the Sierra Club submitted a Notice of Intent to Sue to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for violations of environmental laws relating to its wildlife habitat management grants to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Efforts to negotiate with the federal agency have been

fruitless due to its unwillingness to correct blatant violations of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Management Act (Pittman-Robertson). The Sierra Club's attorney expects to file the complaint in federal court prior to publication of this issue of *the Mackinac*.

The Sierra Club noted that almost 10,000 miles of forest roads already exist in Michigan's three National Forests that the Forest Service cannot afford to maintain, and that the Huron-Manistee National Forest can't even determine how many miles of roads it currently has because of illegal road building.

SIERRA CLUB WINS INTERIOR WETLANDS APPEAL

A Sierra Club appeal of the Interior Wetlands Project on the east side of the Hiawatha National Forest was granted by the Regional Supervisor of the Forest Service. As of this printing, the Forest Service has not discussed its next steps in addressing the deficiencies identified in the appeal, which was written by Marvin Roberson, Michigan Forest Biodiversity Project Program Consultant. The decision in favor

of the Sierra Club's appeal was considered a significant victory by forest activists throughout the Great Lakes Region, as it confirmed the agency's obligations to do complete and adequate reviews of environmental effects, particularly on large-scale projects. ♣

Join the Forest Activist Network

If you would like information about the Michigan Forest Activist Network, fill in and send this form to F.A.N., Sierra Club, 300 N. Washington, Suite 411, Lansing, 48933, or email <anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org> with the same information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone &/or Email _____

I'd like to receive:

- Forest Activist Network Newsletter
- Notice of upcoming Trainings
- Background Forest Activist Network Information
- Other things? Let us know!

EXCITING INPUT OPPORTUNITIES ON PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE

BY ANNE WOIWODE

Director, Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the spectacular park on the Lake Superior coastline between Grand Marais and Munising, is continuing its work to update its General Management Plan (GMP) and conduct a Wilderness Suitability Study. This past summer public input was kicked off with open houses to get initial feedback from the public about the direction of the park. Over the next year and one-half the National Park Service will rewrite the 1981 GMP, giving the public a chance for input and direction on the future management of this National Park unit. In addition, the revisions will allow for the correction and updating of the GMP to reflect policy changes that have occurred in the almost two decades

The most prominent area discussed for potential wilderness protection is Beaver Basin, in the heart of the 30-mile long park. This area has been the focal point of controversies in the past regarding a proposed road, and wilderness protection would assure that such projects are permanently off the table.

since the original plan was adopted.

One exciting aspect of the process will be a Wilderness Suitability Study. The Study will collect public input and scientific data on areas of the park that might be considered for formal designation as wilderness by the US Congress. A recommendation for designation by the National Park Service would also place those pro-

posed wilderness areas into management consistent with wilderness protection until such time as Congress acts or the Plan is revised.

The most prominent area discussed for potential wil-

continued on next page

NEW CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT-LARGE ELECTED

BY ALISON HORTON

Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

On January 22, the Mackinac Chapter welcomed newly elected At-Large members to the Chapter's Executive Board. Three of them were incumbents: Sue Kelly of Milford (Crossroads Group), Judy Thompson of Ann Arbor (Huron Valley Group) and Fred Townsend of Ortonville (Nepessing Group). The fourth person elected was Barbara Yarrow of Bloomfield Township (SE Michigan Group). Their terms began in January 2000 and end January 2002.

It's worthy of notice that these elections commanded a far greater number of voters than previous ones—the number of votes received almost doubled the number of votes cast in the 1998 and in other recent elections. The greater outpour of ballots stems in part from making voting easier—envelopes for voting purposes were enclosed in the recent November-January issue of the Mackinac.

The new At-Large members will be joining continuing At-Large members Lydia Fischer of Detroit (SE Michigan Group), Mike



Johnson of Hastings (Kalamazoo Valley Group), Mike Keeler of Flint (Nepessing Group), Helen LeBlanc of Williamstown (Central Michigan Group), and Gary Semer of Plymouth (SE Michigan Group). When this issue went to press, Chapter Officers had not yet been elected from among At-Large members.

The Chapter Executive Committee (Ex-Com) is composed of At-Large members elected by the Chapter membership and serving two-year terms, and of Representatives from each local Group within the Chapter, serving one year. The Executive Committee meets quarterly at locations around the state. Ex-Com

meeting dates for the current year will be published in the next issue of the Mackinac.

The Steering Committee, composed of the Chapter Officers, meets monthly between Executive Committee meetings to conduct the Chapter's business. Sierra Club members are welcome to attend all meetings. ♣

PICTURED ROCKS
continued from page 12

Wilderness protection is Beaver Basin, in the heart of the 30-mile long park. This area has been the focal point of controversies in the past regarding a proposed road, and wilderness protection would assure that such projects are permanently off the table. Beaver Basin is one of the most remote areas found on the mainland of the UP, providing habitat for many uncommon plants and animals and an even rarer opportunity for solitude for the visitor.

The timeline for revision of the Pictured Rocks General Management Plan and Wilderness Suitability Study provides opportunities for public input, with open houses tentatively planned for the summer of 2000. If you would like to keep up with the GMP revisions and the Wilderness Suitability Study contact Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and ask them to add your name to their mailing list for periodic newsletters about the studies. Write to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, General Management Plan, Jan Harris, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, PO Box 25287, Denver, Colorado 80225-9001, or access the website for Pictured Rocks at www.nps.gov/piro to get information and sign up for future mailings. ♣

Sierra Club Year 2000 Calendars



Sierra Club 2000 Wall Calendars: Majestic natural scenes of wilderness, birds, oceans, wildflowers, or wildlife. Spiral bound. \$11.95-\$12.95.

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ORDER YOUR CALENDAR FROM YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP:

Central Michigan Group
Helen LeBlanc: 517-655-6454

Nepessing Group
Bob Simpson: 810-230-0704

Central Upper Michigan Group
Richard Posey: 906-226-7934

Southeast Michigan Group
Gloria Scicli: 248-642-3069

Crossroads Group
Ron Smith: Calendars generally sold at Crossroads meetings

Three Lakes Group
Anne Marie Askwith: 906-632-3286

Huron Valley Group
Alan Richardson: 734-332-0207

West Michigan Group
Leon Ballast: 616-791-6612

Kalamazoo Valley Group
Plainwell: 616-353-7700

SEE THE GROUPS MAP, PAGE 16, FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR LOCAL GROUP.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CABIN RENTALS

DEER LODGE, a north Woods Retreat. Secluded home, sleeps 4, year-round recreation area, fall color, Ottawa National Forest ski trails out the back door, down-hill ski at PowderHorn Mountain, North Country Trail passes in front, private tennis court. Finnish Log Cabin bunkhouse sleeps 5, walk to Lake Superior's pristine Black River Harbor, beaches, fishing, gorgeous waterfalls. Located 20 miles north of Ironwood, MI, far-western UP. Starts \$75, available September-June. Reservations: Monica, 906-932-1898.

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ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION: THE PLUTONIUM WARRIORS

BY CHRIS BZDOK

While the Cold War may be over, some of its effects linger. One of the most difficult environmental problems caused by years of nuclear proliferation is how to dispose of dangerous, left-over materials from atomic weapons. This problem came close to home recently, with a federal lawsuit over the US Department of Energy's plan to transport weapons-grade plutonium through Michigan to a reactor in Canada.

The Energy Department's plan was to fabricate nine rods of mixed oxide fuel, or "MOX," from surplus weapons plutonium and truck them from Los Alamos, New Mexico to an experimental reactor in Ontario, where they would be burned as nuclear fuel. The fuel rods from Los Alamos were scheduled to enter Michigan from the southwest on I-94, travel around Lansing and then up I-75, crossing the Mackinac Bridge and then the International Bridge to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

The experiment was part of a larger deal between the United States and Russia. The two countries have about 50 tons of surplus plutonium, which they have agreed to dispose of simultaneously at about 4 tons per year. They will dispose of about half this material through deep burial, and the other half is planned to go to reactors. The Ontario reactor was to be a joint experiment, with MOX fuel rods going to Ontario from both countries and then combined in the reactor.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Energy Department prepared an Environmental Assessment of the fabrication and trucking of the MOX fuel rods from Los Alamos to Canada. While the assessment considered some kinds of accidents in transportation, the ultimate conclusion was that there would be no significant environmental impact from the plan. Finding no significant impact, the assessment found no need to prepare a more detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Energy Department announced its decision in September of 1999. On December 6, seven Michigan residents and the group Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination filed a lawsuit in federal court. Represented by attorneys Terry Lodge and Kary Love, who volunteered their time, the citizens asked the court for an order prohibiting the Los Alamos shipment without a full EIS. Chief Judge Richard Enslen granted them a temporary restraining order the next day.

Judge Enslen barred the Energy Department from shipping plutonium from Los Alamos until he could hear a more detailed presentation by the two sides. About a week later, the

judge held two days of hearings on the risks of the shipment, the details of the disposal plan, and the role of the whole experiment in US-Russian foreign policy.

On December 17, 1999, Judge Enslen ruled in the citizens' favor on the merits of their claims under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). He found that the Energy Department had prepared the Environmental Assessment in bad faith, since it manufactured the MOX fuel rods before it even started working on the assessment. Judge Enslen also ruled that the

Energy Department had improperly excluded the Russian shipment of MOX fuel rods to the Canadian reactor. Since the US was paying for the Russian shipment, and had signed an agreement with Russia and Canada governing it, the Russian shipment was under US control. Perhaps more significantly, the Russian shipment was to pass along the St. Lawrence Seaway, within one mile of the American border, and the Energy Department's computer models

showed that a potential accident could have effects up to 50 miles downwind.

Despite these rulings, the judge ultimately declined to prohibit the shipment any longer. He found that while the citizens had an important interest in having the Energy Department comply with the NEPA, the executive branch of the federal government had a more important interest in pursuing its foreign policy goals free from judicial oversight. Judge Enslen deferred to the Energy Department's belief that an injunction could derail the United States' plan to encourage Russia to dispose of its surplus plutonium. Having deferred to the administration's foreign policy judgment, the court dissolved the restraining order.

While the court ultimately let the shipment go forward, the plaintiffs and their lawyers nonetheless achieved an important victory. They set a couple of important precedents under the National Environmental Policy Act. They also generated significant media attention on the transport of dangerous nuclear materials across our state's highways, bridges, and waterways. Hopefully, the precedents and the public awareness that came from their efforts mean citizens will be better-armed the next time an action like the MOX shipment is proposed. Or better yet, that it won't be proposed at all. ♣

Club member Chris Bzdok is an attorney with Olson, Noonan & Bzdok, P.C., a Traverse City firm with a statewide practice in environmental law.

Judge Enslen found that the Energy Department had prepared the Environmental Assessment in bad faith, since it manufactured the MOX fuel rods before it even started working on the assessment.

SPRAWL

continued from page 3



that originally drew many there. Both suffer from the same air and water pollution and higher taxes to maintain or duplicate infrastructure. Cities and suburbs are linked by the challenge they face, but outdated land use policies continue. While tools for planning are almost exclusively local in focus, the issues are regional and require of us what is often hardest—to work together.

Hope is on the horizon. As statistical evidence confirms personal experience, people across Michigan are taking action at the local level to demand more of their leaders and each other. People want healthy urban centers to live in harmony with rural lifestyles and they want less time in traffic and more time with families in healthy neighborhoods. They want real solutions that provide their communities with more choices as to how they grow. They want the opportunity to plan for their future and to build communities future generations can be proud of.

To learn more about how you can be involved in fighting sprawl and promoting smart growth, please call us at 517-484-2372. In addition, a large amount of information on the sprawl issue can be found at our national website, www.sierraclub.org.



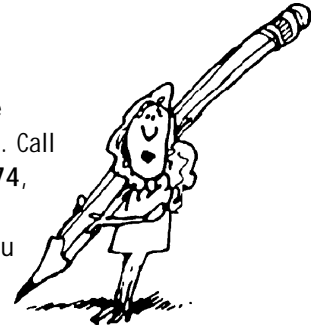
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TAKING ACTION:

YOUR WORDS COUNT!

Get your free copy of "A Citizen's Guide To State Government" to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Chuck Perricone at (517) 373-1774, mention that you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask him to send you a copy!



THE WHITE HOUSE

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1414

White House Fax Line: (202) 456-2461

White House Comment Line:
(202) 456-1111

White House email:
president@whitehouse.gov

US CONGRESS

US Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable _____
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

MICHIGAN

Governor John Engler
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517) 373-3400

The Honorable _____
Michigan Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

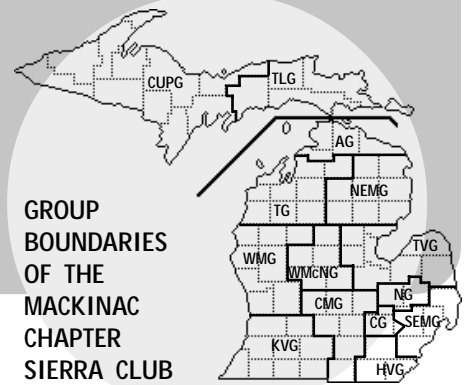
The Honorable _____
Michigan House
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS

Sierra Club National Legislative Hotline: (202) 675-2394

- **ENVIRO-MICH** is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, send email to: majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).
- **Sierra Club's National Web Page** is at: www.sierraclub.org. Check out the daily *War On the Environment* postings.
- Find our **New, Improved Mackinac Chapter Web Page**, by Davina Pallone + designwrench information arts, at: www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mi
- Get a free subscription to "**The Planet**" by promising to write at least 3 letters a year to your elected officials in support of the environment. Send your name and address to **Sierra Club Planet Subscription Request**, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

GROUP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS



GROUP BOUNDARIES OF THE MACKINAC CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

AG

Algonquin Group

If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Dan Farough at the Mackinac Chapter office, 517-484-2372.

CMG

Central Michigan Group

General meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at the Harris Nature Center, off Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Come at 5:30pm for supper (small donation requested) or at 6:15pm for the meeting. Call Pete Pasterz at 517-676-3339 for information.

The Conservation Committee usually meets the 2nd Monday of each month in Wells Hall on the MSU campus. Call Maria Lapinski at 517-569-3302 for information.

The Executive Committee meets the 1st Monday of each month. Call Jerry Schuur at 517-351-7796 for information.

CUP

Central Upper Peninsula Group

Sierra Club members in the central and western counties in the Upper Peninsula are invited to participate in CUP group activities. General membership and executive committee meetings are held in West Science, Room 270, on the Northern Michigan University campus at 7pm. For information call John Rebers, 906-228-3617.

To receive news about outings or other Sierra Club activities in the Central Upper Peninsula, send \$5 for a subscription to the CUP newsletter to Sierra Club, 338 West Crescent, Marquette, MI, 49855.

CG

Crossroads Group

The Sierra Club members of Livingston, southern Genesee, and western Oakland Counties meet monthly at the Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorff Dr, Brighton, for informative and entertaining programs. These meetings begin at 7pm and are open to the public.

The Conservation Committee also meets monthly to discuss and address local issues. Call Emily Gobright, 517-548-0595, or David Wright, 810-229-1685, for dates and locations.

The Executive Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month. Call Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298, for details.

HVG

Huron Valley Group

The General Meetings of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. For more information call 734-480-7751.

2/15 General Meeting. Ann Woiwode, Program Director for the Michigan Forest Activist's Network, will speak on "Huron-Manistee National Forest Old Growth Proposals".

3/21 General Meeting. "Recycling: Turning Trash into Treasure" by Susan Todd of the Washtenaw County Department of Solid Waste.

4/18 General Meeting. Topic to be announced.

KVG

Kalamazoo Valley Group

General membership meetings are usually held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Twp Camput, Room 4370.

The Executive Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm and all members are welcome. Contact Verne and Cindy Mills at 616-344-4279 for more information.

2/28 Joint meeting with Audubon Society of Kalamazoo: refreshments and socializing at 7pm, meeting starts at 7:30pm at People's Church, 1758 N. 10th St, Kalamazoo. Speaker Dave Dempsey will present a program on Michigan Wetlands; what is and is not being done to protect them. Call 616-344-4279 for more info.

3/16 7:30pm at KVCC Texas Twp Campus, Room 4370. "What's Happening with the Kalamazoo River Superfund Site": Scott Cornelius from the Michigan DEQ and Dayle Harrison from the Kalamazoo River Protection Association will present 2 perspectives on the management of the superfund site.

4/20 7:30pm at KVCC Texas Twp Campus, Room 4370. "Great Lakes Issues Discussion": A Sierra Club-produced video about the Great

Lakes will be shown and issues such as toxins deposited from the air, water diversions, oil & gas drilling, and toxic sediments will be discussed. Call Mike at 616-948-8840 for more info.

NG

Nepessing Group

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at Mott Community College in the "New Students" Prah Building, Genesee Room, 1401 E Court St in Flint. These meetings are free and refreshments are available. Non-members are welcome, and parking is free of charge. Find out what local volunteers are doing and hear our featured speakers. For information, call Carol Graham at 810-659-4965.

Our current projects include working to get curbside recycling in Flint, water testing in the Flint River watershed, fundraising, trail repairs, and great outings. Come help us and meet some fun and interesting people! Check the Nepessing web page at www.gfn.org/sierrang.

The Nepessing Group weekly hiking schedule is available at 810-743-0335 or on our web page.

NEMG

Northeast Michigan Group

If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Dan Farough at the Mackinac Chapter office, 517-484-2372.

SEMG

Southeast Michigan Group

General membership meetings are held 7:30pm the 1st Thursday of each month, September through June, at Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy (southbound M-10 service drive) between Southfield and Evergreen roads, and Nine and Ten Mile roads in Southfield. Contact Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

continued on next page

GROUP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS
continued from page 18

The Executive Committee meets 7:30pm the 2nd Tuesday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, Woodward and 11-mile Rd, Royal Oak. Contact Anna Holden, Chairperson, at 313-331-0932.

Conservation Committee meetings are held 7:30pm the 3rd Thursday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church. Parking in back of the church, south of 11 Mile Road. Call Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645.

Outings Committee: Contact Phil Crookshank if you are interested in planning or leading outings, 313-562-1873.

Political Action to support pro-environment legislation, state and national. Contact Tim Killeen, Chair, Political Action Committee, 313-526-4052.

2/3 Mike Champagne, from Seven Ponds Nature Center, will speak on traveling to the Smokies. He will focus on plants and animals found there.

3/2 Lon Ullman, from the Troy Wildlife and Wetland Coalition, will talk about what his group is doing to protect Troy from development.

3/18 (Sat) Outings Scheduling Meeting. This is open to everyone interested in leading

or learning about outings. Bring a St. Patricks Day potluck dish to pass at 6pm, then participate in the planning meeting for the next quarter. We will meet at Liz' house, 7250 Bingham, east of Schaefer, north of Warren, in Dearborn. Call Liz at 313-581-7579.

4/6 John Herrgott, Sierra Leader, will present a slide show and narration of his recent journey to and through Nepal.

TLG

Three Lakes Group

Sierra Club members in the Upper Peninsula counties of Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft are welcome to attend meetings of the Three Lakes Group. Business meetings are held monthly at various locations in Sault Ste. Marie. Programs are held the 1st Wednesday of each month, September through May, at the Walker Cislser Center on the campus of Lake Superior State University. Call Floyd Byerly, 906-632-0218.

TVG

Thumb Valley Group

No group meetings planned at this time but see Outings, page 19, for group activities. Call group chairs Craig and Janis Kendziorski, 517-631-5170, for updated information or if interested in participating on the leadership team

or leading an outing.

3/18 (Sat) Potluck. Bring a dish to pass. Kendziorski's house 4209 Linden Dr. Midland. Contact Craig or Janis.

4/22 (Sat) Earth Expo. TVG is planning a booth again this year at Midland's Earth Expo. Last Year 2,500 people showed up and we needed additional support. Contact Janis Kendziorski at 631-5170 to participate.

TG

Traverse Group

At this time, no general membership meetings or programs are scheduled. See Outings, page 19, for some special Traverse Group activities.

WMcNG

Wakelin McNeel Group

If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Dan Farough at the Mackinac Chapter office, 517-484-2372.

WMG

West Michigan Group

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Kent Community Hospital meeting room beginning at 7pm. Everyone is welcome! Call Marty Lore, 517-682-1316 for further details. ☮

Environmental Fund for Michigan: Your Workplace Can Participate

Preserve the land, clean the lakes, and clear the air—all in a good day's work.

The Environmental Fund for Michigan (EFM) is a non-profit federation of 20 environmental and conservation organizations, including the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Environmental Fund is an alternative workplace giving fund. Employers with employee payroll deduction campaigns can participate in EFM campaigns, and through EFM campaigns, workplace donations help support the important work of Michigan environmental groups.

If you would like information about how your workplace can include the Environmental Fund for Michigan in your annual employee campaign, please call 1-800-386-3326.



THE MACKINAC CHAPTER WEB PAGE

Your online information source about environmental issues, current action alerts, outings, and lots of ways to get involved.

Find links to your state legislators, important state environmental agencies, and other sources of environmental information.

WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CHAPTERS/MI



WILDERNESS SKILLS:

ICE PICKS COULD SAVE YOU FROM AN ICY DEATH

BY MICHAEL A. NEIGER

Central Upper Peninsula Group

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The late-January sun warms your face as you skirt a cedar thicket along the shore of a small, eastern Upper Peninsula lake. Confident there's plenty of solid ice, you strike out for the opposite shore. An occasional snowmobile track crisscrosses the lake. A solitary green cedar branch marks an old ice-fishing hole. The sharp rapport of a tree cracking in the distance reminds you the mercury hasn't risen above zero in almost two weeks.

Moments later, you're gasping for air, struggling to stay afloat in the icy water. For an instant, you've lost your sight. Then you realize your eyelashes are frozen together. One of your skis bobs to the surface next to you. Your mind races. "How could I have broken through the ice in January?" Then it dawns on you. It's a spring-fed trout lake. Acting like a marina bubbler system, the springs have prevented the ice from freezing in certain locations. To make matters worse, the open holes have drifted over with crusty snow.

Your instinct to survive takes over. You frantically claw at the ice, struggling to pull yourself out. More than once you're almost out, only to lose your grip on the slippery ice and slide back into the numbing water. Before long, your fingers are too numb to even claw at the ice. You search your pockets for something sharp, but your hands don't work. They're frozen. "If only I had something to 'dig' into the ice," you think. "Something to pull myself out with." Before long, only a ski remains afloat.

Could this happen to you? If you don't carry ice picks it could. Ice rescue picks are nothing more than a couple of sharp objects used to get a grip on the ice. Ideally, they'll float and be tethered together by a lanyard to prevent accidental loss. Trappers often carried a couple of large log-cabin spikes in their pockets. Today, some outdoor enthusiasts still carry nails while others carry a pair of screwdrivers or awls on a lanyard. If you're handy with a few basic tools, you can even make your own ice picks with two pieces of doweling and a couple of large nails (see diagram). For my first set of ice picks, I inserted nails into a couple of extra-large wooden file handles.

Ice picks are commercially manufactured too. Check with your local sporting goods store for a pair. For the last few years, I've carried professional-grade rescue picks marketed under the name of Angel-Guard (formerly Hammes Pick-Of-Life). Popular with rescue squads across the country, these ice picks consist of a pair of four-inch-long, one-inch-diameter, bright orange plastic cylinders tethered together by a long lanyard. A sharp spike protrudes from each cylinder

and is protected by a retractable pocket guard. Angel-Guard ice picks are available for \$20 plus shipping from Rock-n-Rescue, PO Box 213, Valencia, Pennsylvania, 16059-0213, 1-800-346-7673 (order item #POL-1).

Ice picks should be carried in a location where they'll be

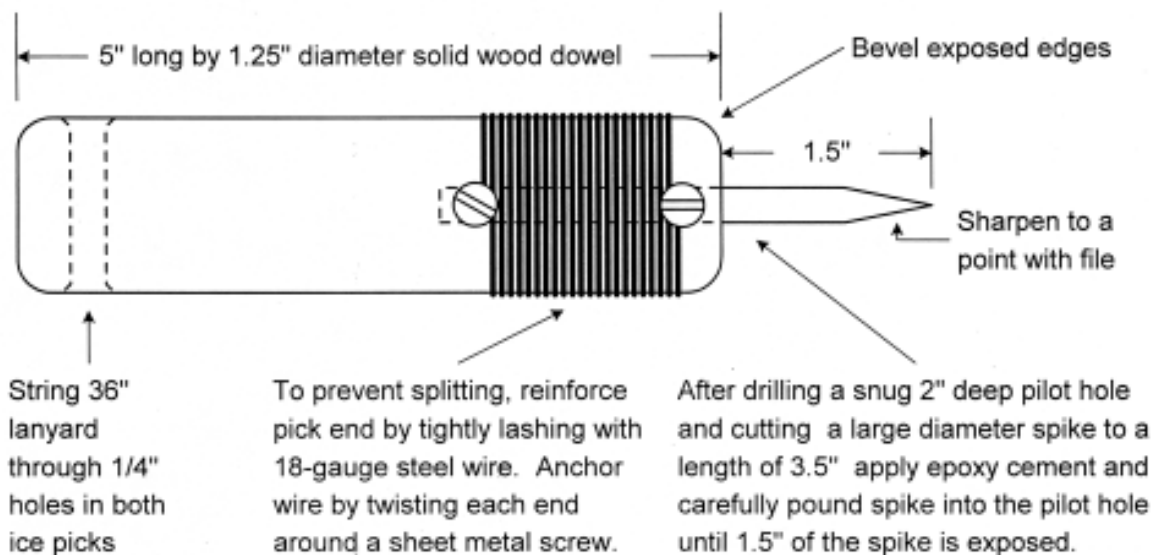
readily accessible when you're submerged. I like to carry mine in a pouch attached high on the shoulder strap of my backpack. They can also be carried in an accessible pocket or hung around your neck by the lanyard. Others like to thread the lanyard through the sleeves of their jacket so the picks dangle at the ready near each hand. However you carry them, make sure there's no way you'll accidentally impale yourself on them if you happen to fall.

To use a set of ice picks, simply grasp one in each hand and plunge the spiked ends into the ice in a hand-over-hand fashion as you pull yourself onto the ice. Make sure you exit the hole in the same direction from which you entered, as this is the only known path of supporting ice. Once you're out of the water and on the ice, don't stand up. Instead, keep

"If only I had something to 'dig' into the ice," you think. "Something to pull myself out with."

Before long, only a ski remains afloat.

see *ICE PICKS* page 23





MACKINAC CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

OUTINGS

TO EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group that is planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map on page 16 to determine a group's location. Trips begin at the trailhead. Outings are open to everyone.

FEBRUARY

2/5 NG (Sat) Holly North Hike. 10am. 6.5 moderate miles. Meet in parking lot behind Groveland Twp. Hall at 4695 Grange Hall Rd, east of Holly between Mt Holly and Ortonville—not to be confused with fire and police dept. buildings on corner of Dixie Hwy and Grange Hall Rd. Restaurant stop. Colette Mendel, 810-233-7052.

2/6 SEMG Addison Oaks Cross-Country Skiing. This 2-3 hour trip to northern Oakland County is designed for advanced beginners or intermediates. Ski rentals available. Bring lunch or buy one from the snack bar. If no snow, we will hike at another park. Call if weather is doubtful. Meet in Rochester Hills at 11am on the west side of the Meijer parking lot on Rochester Rd near Auburn, (just north of M-59). Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

2/11-13 NG Black Mt/High Country Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe. Black Mt on Saturday, High Country Pathway on Sunday. Lodging at Bill's Broken Blade Ranch log cabin north of Atlanta, Michigan. Directions in Feb 12, 1999 hike schedule. Limit 12. Reservations required. BBR fees: \$1 per night. Rated easy. Colette Mendel, 810-233-7050; Bill Somers, 810-653-0867.

2/18-21 CUP Winter-camping: Lake Superior Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada). Rating: Moderate snowshoeing pace over difficult terrain. Route: 20km (100% off-trail). Trip starts 8:00 a.m. Friday. Night bivouacs in wilderness (not a basecamp trip). This non-smoking trip is suitable for the adventurous, expert-level winter-camper who has prior multi-day experience travelling and camping in minus 40 degree temperatures with minus 100 degree windchills. You must be fully

equipped (including rations and stove), physically fit, and prepared for arctic cold. Severe cold weather survival skills are essential. Advanced land navigation skills helpful. Limit 6. \$15 Donation. Michael Neiger, 906-226-9620, 906-228-2683 (days), or neiger@hotmail.com.

2/12 TVG (Sat 10:30am) Meet in the parking lot at the end of Meir road (10 miles northwest of Midland in Black Creek area). Take highway 10 west through Sanford, exiting at West River Road. Turn north for 1.4 miles, then west on Meir Rd. Meir Rd dead-ends in 1/4 mile at the parking lot just outside of Stockholm Forest Village. Easy ski on unmarked trails. Craig Kendziorski, 517-631-5170.

2/13 SEMG Highland Rec Area Cross-Country Ski. We will ski the beautiful, rolling hills at Highland, which are for intermediate skiing ability. Call if ski conditions are doubtful, and we will hike the trails. Meet at 10am behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SW corner of 12 Mile and Telegraph in Southfield. Restaurant stop. Lydia Fischer, 313-863-8392.

2/18-20 NG Munising Cross-Country Skiing. Ski at the Midwest's premier cross-country trails—Valley Spur (US Forest Service groomed trails) as well as trails at Christmas and Munising Municipal Trails at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Some trails are lighted for night skiing. Rated easy to strenuous. Limit 12. Reservations required. Friday and Saturday night at Days Inn. Carpooling encouraged. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242 or 810-653-0142.

2/19 NG (Sat) Old Bloomer Full Moon Hike and Campfire and Wiener Roast. 5:30pm. 4 miles. Located in Ortonville Rec Area. Take M-15 to Ortonville. East on Oakwood Rd about 1 mile. North on Sands Rd about 1 mile. East on State Park Rd about 1/4 mile. North into parking area. BYO food, beverage, chair, and flashlight. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9002.

2/20 SEMG Heritage Park Hike. We'll take advantage of this rolling urban gem in nearby Farmington Hills just in case the weather is nasty. Hike 2-3 hours depending on conditions. Meet in Farmington Hills Heritage Park

at 12:30pm in the visitor center lot. Turn west off of Farmington Rd between 10 and 11 Mile Rd, and left at first road. Optional Restaurant stop. Don Dahlin, 248-644-2746.

2/26 NG (Sat) Hadley Hills Lookout Mt Hike. 10am. 6 miles. Take M-15 1 mile south of Goodrich to Green Rd. East 2 miles to Washburn Rd. South less than 1 mile to Fox Lake Rd. East about 0.5 mile. Trailhead on north across from ranch. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

2/26 NG (Sun) Hartwick Pines Cross Country Skiing. 11am. 4, 6, and 8 miles available. I-75 north to exit 259, or meet at Clio park and ride to carpool at 8am. Rated moderate. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Mike Ugorowski, 810-235-7365.

2/27 SEMG Pointe Pelee Ice Hike. Join the 9th annual ice hike in Ontario. We are hoping for mounds of breaking-up ice pushed onto the Pointe by winter winds. If we get it, the vista will be spectacular! Dress warmly for 2-3 hours of outdoor fun. This all-day activity starts at 9:30am at Ontario Tourist Info. Center, ≤ mile south of the Ambassador Bridge on Rte 3 / Huron Church Rd (Windsor). Optional restaurant stop at The Dock in Leamington after. Bring border-crossing ID. Bridge fees, park admission fee @ \$12 per car. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

MARCH

3/3-5 Mackinac Chapter Annual Munising Ski Trip. Ski and explore the area near Pictured Rocks. The "Taste and Glide" event will occur Saturday afternoon at Valley Spur in the national forest. There will be snow even if the temperatures are warm. Ralph Powell, 734-971-9013.

3/4 NG (Sat) Polly Ann Trail Service Outing. 10am. Meet in Dryden at the old co-op park on the trail. Will caravan to work sites. Bring work gloves, saws, drinking water, pruners and anything else needed to remove fallen trees from trail. Larry Rumley, 810-796-3788.

3/4 SEMG (Sat) Kensington Metro Park

see *OUTINGS* page 20

OUTINGS

continued from page 19

Nature Hike. Join a slow-to-moderate 2 hour outing; we will look for signs of early spring wildflowers. Be prepared for mud. Meet in Southfield at 11am behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd, or at 11:45am at the Park Nature Center. Optional Restaurant stop. Jeanne Mercier, 313-581-6648.

3/5 NG (Sun) Otter Lake Hike. 10am. 4 miles. I-69 to M-15. North to Willard Rd (2.8 miles north of M-57). East 2.6 miles. Left at fork 0.1 miles to trailhead parking lot on left. Restaurant stop. Holly Lubowicki, 810-767-4004.

3/5 SEMG Independence Oaks Ski or Slush Hike. Hope for snowflakes to ski—if not we will hike a 5-mile loop. Bring equipment and dress for the weather, from skis to rain boots. Meet at 1pm behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy. Restaurant stop. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

3/10 KVG (Fri) Dinner & Good Company: Arcadia Brewing Co, Battle Creek. Join KVG members and friends for an evening of good company and good food. We will meet at the Arcadia Brewing Company in downtown Battle Creek (103 W Michigan Ave, 616-963-9690) at 8pm. Mike, 616-948-8840.

3/11 NG (Sat) Lapeer State Game Area Hike. 10am. 4 miles. Meet at parking lot on top of the hill. From intersection of M-24 and M-21, go north on M-24 3.5 miles to Daley Rd. Turn right, go 3 miles to Fish Lake Rd. Turn left (north), go 2 miles to Vernor Rd. Turn right, go 1 mile to Five Lakes Rd. Turn left (north), go 1 mile to parking lot on top of hill. Restaurant stop. Gordon Schneider, 810-664-6180.

3/12 SEMG Brighton Recreation Area Hike. Join us on a medium-to-quick-paced hilly hike in this moderately hilly locale. Be prepared for snowy or wet patches even with dry lawns at home! Wear sturdy foot gear; bring water, trail snacks, dress for the weather. Meet in Southfield at noon behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. Optional Restaurant stop. Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

3/12 HVG Hike the Crooked Lake Trail in the Pinckney Recreation Area west of Dexter. It's a four mile loop trail in a wooded area with rolling hills and lakes. Meet at the Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 1pm at the corner of Fifth and Ann. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

3/19 SEMG Belle Isle Hike. Greet Spring at

our unique island park. Bring binoculars to check out the duck population. It will be windy but trip goes rain, snow, or shine. Bring a trail snack. Optional Restaurant stop. Meet 10am behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy, or 10:45am at the island nature center. John Hergott, 248-643-4767 evenings.

3/25 NG (Sat) Belle Isle Hike. 10am. 5.5 moderate miles. Meet at the Scott Fountain on the Detroit side face. Or carpool at 8:30am from bank parking lot at Dort and Court, Flint. Restaurant stop. Mike Ugorowski, 810-235-7365.

3/25 SEMG (Sat) Holliday Hike. Let's get a glimpse of Mother Nature waking up her children in Holliday Nature Preserve. It will be a slow, 2-hour stroll around vernal ponds and through climax beech forests. Meet in Canton Twp. at 10am at the Koppernick entrance to the Preserve (south of Joy Rd, north of Warren Ave. on Hix Rd) Turn west off Hix onto Koppernick, 0.5 mile to the Westland/Canton border. Or meet in Livonia at 9:30am between Wall Mart and Oil Dispatch (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy). Optional Restaurant stopwards. Bob Duda, 734-464-0076.

3/26 SEMG Orion Oaks County Park Hike. Let's get ready for spring—maybe we will find some early signs on this nice, slow-paced excursion in Oakland County. Bring trail snack, water. Optional Restaurant stop. Meet 12:30pm behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy. Lee Becker, 810-294-7789.

3/26 KVG (Sun) Grand Mere State Park Hike. Meet at the NE corner of KVCC Texas Twp parking lot (9th St & O Ave) at 1:00pm for carpooling. Dress for cold, windy weather as we will be climbing big dunes on the shore of Lake Michigan. Verne, 616-344-4279 evenings.

3/26 NG (Sun) Maple River State Game Area Hike. 10am. 4 easy miles. West on M-57 to US-27. South 3 miles to parking lot on east. Bring binoculars for this hike with Genesee Audubon to see returning waterfowl including swans, up to 3 species of geese, and as many as 18 species of ducks. Carpooling from park and ride in Clio at M-57 just west of I-75 at 8:30am. Restaurant stop. Jeff Buecking, 248-328-9858.

APRIL

4/1 NG (Sat) Mason Track Pathway Hike. 10am. 11.5 moderate miles. Carpool from Clio park and ride at 7:30am. State Park Vehicle

Permit required. Restaurant stop. Mike Ugorowski, 810-235-7365.

4/1 SEMG (Sat) Erie Metropark Birding Walk. No fooling, we're going to look for early migrants along the edges of ponds and marshes. Be prepared for mud and plan to stay 2-3 hours. Meet at 8:45am behind the Dearborn Civic Center, (SW corner of Michigan Ave. and Greenfield, east end of parking lot) next to King Boring ball field. Bring binoculars, field guides, wet gear for a slow moving naturalists hike. Optional restaurant stop. Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370; Alice Griebel, 248-349-8782.

4/2 SEMG Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills Hike. Let's see if anyone remembers the last time we toured the rolling wooded terrain of the Cranbrook grounds. We will walk the forested areas as well as the groomed section, about 5 miles. Meet at 1pm in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd in Bloomfield Township. Restaurant stop. John Kalam, 248-681-9160.

4/8 NG (Sat) Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 10am. 5 moderate miles. I-75 to Grange Hall Rd. (exit 101). West 3.5 miles to Fish Lake Rd. North 1 mile to park entrance. Meet at Big 7 Shelter parking lot. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Restaurant stop. Rich Witek, 810-667-9633.

4/8 SEMG (Sat) Indian Springs Metropark Hike. We will stroll 3-5 miles to find the earliest birds and wildflowers in this beautiful forest park. Call if weather is doubtful. Meet at 11am on the west side of the Meijer parking lot on Rochester Rd near Auburn, (just north of M-59) in Rochester Hills. Restaurant stop. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

4/9 SEMG Maumee River Towpath Hike. Come and join us for a walk on the historical towpath along the lovely Maumee River south of Toledo. Bring a lunch. Meet at 10am behind the Dearborn Civic Center (SW corner of Michigan and Greenfield) at the east end of parking lot, next to King Boring ball field. John and Margaret Mellen, 313-563-5961.

4/15 NG (Sat) Hadley Hills to Algoe Lake Hike. 10am. 6 miles. Meet at dead end of Jasmond Rd south off Hegel Rd, 4.5 miles east of M-15 near Goodrich. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

4/16 SEMG Pontiac Lake Day Hike. Let's enjoy a day of hilly hiking in Pontiac Lake Rec. Area. We will go 6-7 miles, enjoying the approach of spring. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a trail lunch, and meet at 10am in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph

continued on next page

OUTINGS*continued from page 20*

(east side) north of Square Lake Rd in Bloomfield Township. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

4/22 NG (Sat) Wildwood and Valley Lakes/North Holly Hike. 10am. 5 miles. Holly State Rec Area. I-75 to Grange Hall Rd (exit 101). East across Dixie Hwy. Take McGinnis Rd, fork to right at park entrance. Go to end of pavement, turn right. Meet at Wildwood Beach parking lot at far south end of park or at Scenic Overlook parking area if gate is still closed. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Restaurant stop. Holly Lubowicki, 810-767-4004; Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

4/22 SEMG (Sat) Maybury State Park. Come celebrate Earth Day by enjoying the sights, smells, feel, taste, and sounds of the spring Earth at Maybury. We will tour all of the various parts of this park, including the farm, for a 5-mile walk. Meet at 10am at the park concession bldg. Entrance is on Eight Mile Rd, west of Beck Rd (and Northville), 5 miles west of I-275. Restaurant stop. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

4/22 KVG (Sat) Earth Day Beach Cleanup: Warren Dunes State Park. Meet at 12:00pm at the NE corner of KVCC Texas Twp parking lot (9th St & O Ave) to carpool. Bring gloves and dress for the weather. Garbage bags will be provided. Plan to pick trash for a couple of hours, then maybe a stop nearby for a snack. Cindy, 616-344-4279.

4/29 NG (Sat) Frog Hike. Campfire picnic at 7pm. Hike at 8:30pm. 3 moderate miles. Meet

at Ortonville Rec. Area equestrian campground on the north side of Fox Lake Rd. about 1 mile west of Hadley Rd, 4 miles south of Hadley. Bring flashlight, boots for muddy trails, hot dogs, buns, marshmallows and beverages. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Fred Townsend, 248-627-3587.

4/29 SEMG (Sat) Potowatami Trail Hike. A fast paced, hilly 14-mile hike in the most beautiful park in SE Michigan. This is an all day trip, we usually hike about 3 miles/hour. Wear sturdy shoes, and dress for the weather. Trip goes, rain or shine. Bring lunch and drinks for entire day. Meet at 8:30am in the Wal Mart parking lot (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy) in Livonia. Restaurant stop. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

4/30 SEMG Proud Lake Hike. A moderately paced 5-mile hike with stops to view nature in one of our areas most scenic state parks. We will see the greening of the fields, trees, and coming of the wildflowers. Dress for spring weather, and meet at noon behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd in Southfield. Restaurant stop. Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

5/5-6 NG Metamora-Hadley Service Outing. Bridge removal on hiking trail with overnight camping on Friday. Late lunch or dinner at White Horse Tavern in Metamora on Saturday. BYO food and beverage for Friday, and knee-high rubber boots. Strenuous. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Charlie Warner, 810-

635-8184; Jan Hanson, 810-232-1304.

5/6 SEMG (Sat) Year 2000 Earth Day Service Event. Let's celebrate this 30th Earth Day anniversary at Kensington Metropark by literally weeding Nature's Gardens. Wear sturdy boots, and bring work gloves to help remove some of the invasive weeds that are taking over this pristine area. There will be a potluck lunch afterwards (bring a dish to pass) at the East Boat Launch picnic grounds. Take I-96 to exit 151 (Kensington Rd) to park entrance. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:30am. Bob Duda, 734-464-0076.

5/7 NG (Sun) Jossman Road Hike. Holly Rec Area. Noon. 4 miles. Take Grange Hall Rd to Jossman Rd. South to second parking lot on west side. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Restaurant stop. Mike Keeler, 810-767-9904.

5/7 SEMG Sharon Hollow Wildflower Walk. See this jewel of the Nature Conservancy's preserves SW of Ann Arbor during Spring blooms. Trilliums, Dutchmans Breeches, Jack in the Pulpits, and others on display. Bring flower guide books and mud shoes for this slow, naturalists walk. Meet at 9am between Wal Mart and Oil Dispatch (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy) in Livonia. Restaurant stop. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

5/13 NG (Sat) Lapeer State Game Area Hike. 10am. 5-6 moderate miles. I-69 to M-24. North about 7.5 miles. West on Sawdust Corners Rd. 0.6 mile to parking lot on north side of road (go past "Road Closed" sign). Restau-

see OUTINGS page 22

MAY

L O O K I N G A H E A D :**CUP WILDERNESS TRIPS WITH MICHAEL NEIGER**

5/26-29 Backpacking: Lake Superior Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada. We'll hike a 24km section of rugged Coastal Hiking Trail along beautiful Lake Superior shoreline. Travel to area Thursday night. Fri: 6km hike from Gargantua Harbor to sand beach tucked in rugged Rhyolite Cove. Sat: 8km hike to fine sand beach in sheltered Beatty Cove. Sun: 6km hike to mouth of Baldhead River. Mon: 4km hike to vehicles at Orphan Lake trailhead. Fun trip suitable for non-smoking experienced backpacker who's physically fit, adventurous, fully equipped (w/ food), and who hikes and camps in foul weather. \$15.00 donation to club welcomed. For info, contact Michael Neiger at 906-226-9620, 906-228-2683, or via e-mail at mneiger@hotmail.com.

CUP OUTINGS WITH DAVE BOS

4/20-26 Zion/Bryce Canyons in Southwest Utah. An informal outing in Southwest Utah with camping at drive-in campgrounds and day-hiking in the canyons. This will be a fun, easy-going outing with lots of options and a flexible itinerary. Contact: trailbos@bresnanlink.net or 906-228-6744. (Editor's note: I'll be there! -d.)

8/10-13 Backpack Pictured Rocks. A scenic, easy backpacking trip suitable for beginners. Short backpacking segments of up to 7 miles per day, 3 unique backcountry campsites. View several waterfalls, caves, coves, arches, big cliffs, and sandy beaches. Swimming, wildlife, and good company make this a fun outing. Group gear and food provided; personal backpacking gear available with advance request. Pre-registration required with a \$65 fee. Group size is limited, so sign up early. Dave Bos, trailbos@bresnanlink.net or 906-228-6744.

9/9-17 Kings Canyon Service Outing. There's room for a couple more people on this exciting trip to the High Sierras. Base camp at 9000 ft, work on the famous Bubb's Creek Trail, with recreation time to hike part of the Pacific Crest Trail. Group gear provided. Target group size is 8, \$60 fee. Advanced outing with leader approval required. Dave Bos, trailbos@bresnanlink.net or 906-228-6744. ⚡

OUTINGS

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rant stop. Greg and Mary Downey, 810-664-4917.

5/13 SEMG (Sat) Raisin River Wilderness Canoe. The headwaters of the Raisin are described as the most wild and "crookedest" river in MI. A tricky, twisty, but gentle 4-5 hour float through wild forests, an old mill pond, to downtown Manchester. Some canoe experience necessary. Bring river lunch, meet at 8:30am behind the Dearborn Civic Center (SW corner of Michigan Ave and Greenfield, east end of parking lot) in Dearborn. \$16 fee must be received by 5/1. Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI, 48125, 313-562-1873.

5/14 HVG (Sun) Pictured Rocks Mothers Day Hike. Moderately easy 4.6-mile hike with lunch at Chapel Rock on the shore of Lake Superior. Take H-58 to Melstrand, turn north on Chapel Rd for 6 miles. Nancy Kressler, 906-452-6465 or 517-689-4864 mornings.

5/14 SEMG Mothers Day Wildflower Walk. A 3-hour stroll in the Holliday Nature Preserve (Cowan Rd entrance) will reveal 21 flower species—with a few surprises. Flower lists are provided, bring flower field guides, magnifiers, cameras, etc. Meet 9am in Westland at the north end of the Service Merchandise parking

lot (facing the preserve), 1/4 mile west of Wayne Rd, 1/4 mile north of Warren Ave. Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

5/16-19 CUP Pictured Rocks "Trail Opening." A service outing to help clear a backcountry section of the North Country Trail. Base camp at Beaver Creek, with access via hiking or canoe. Food and group gear provided, personal camping equipment available with advance request. No fee, but early registration is requested. Dave Bos, trailbos@bresnanlink.net or 906-228-6744.

5/20 SEMG (Sat) Trillium Hike, Bald Mt. S. We will be surrounded by hillsides of trilliums as we hike about 5 miles at a moderate pace on very wet trails. Wear lug-sole shoes and dress in layers. Meet at noon behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd in Southfield. Restaurant stop. Tom and Pat Skinner, 517-552-9121.

5/20-21 NG Hoist Lakes Spring Backpacking. 9 miles on Saturday, 6 miles on Sunday. Start at 9:30am at Hoist Lakes Foot Area parking lot on M-65, 7 miles north of Glennie. \$5 recreation fee demonstration project required (purchase at Glennie party store). Don Persson, 810-695-0516.

5/21 SEMG Highland Rec Area Hike. We start our hike at 10am in the Goose Meadow park-

ing area, scanning Haven Hill Lake for migrating waterbirds. Then we'll follow a nature trail along the shore of the lake and into Haven Hill Natural Area, which has forest types including tamarack swamp, cedar, beech-maple, oak, hickory, and mixed hardwood. We'll split our attention between the flowers on the forest floor and the warblers above us in the canopy. Bring binoculars and flower guides. Park entrance is on M-59, 10.5 miles east of Rt. 23. First picnic area is Goose Meadow. Or meet for leaderless car pool in Bloomfield Township at 9am in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side), north of Square Lake Rd. Ken and Stephanie Jacobsen, 248-684-8844.

5/26-29 Backpacking: Lake Superior Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada. (See sidebar, p21, for more info)

5/26-29 SEMG Memorial Weekend Basecamp. Camp at a private, rustic spot (w/ showers) near Baldwin. 1) Hike the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area and swim Lake Michigan, 2) canoe 5 hours down the Pere Marquette River, 3) hike a nearby section of North Country trail. \$110 fee covers camp, rentals, and meals Saturday through Monday morning. Send full cost by 5/12 to Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI, 48125, 313-562-1873.

continued on next page

Learn how to build with logs and stone!

The Michigan School of Log Building and Stone Masonry offers 5-day hands-on workshops in early June. Call (517) 734-4688 for information now!

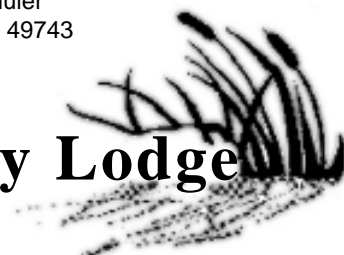
- Scandinavian Full Scribe Technique
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Courses include the option of three excellent meals daily and comfortable lodging at NettieBay Lodge.

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Facilities available to groups for private workshops.

Your hosts: Mark and Jackie Schuler
9011 West 638 Hwy., Hawks, MI 49743
(517) 734-4688
nettiebay@george.lhi.net

NettieBay Lodge



OUTINGS

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5/27 NG (Sat) Polly Ann Trail Bridge Builder. 10am. Meet in Dryden at the old co-op park on the trail. Work entails converting railroad trestles into safe bridges. Bring work gloves and carpentry tools. Donated building materials will be at the site. Sack lunch provided. Larry Rumley, 810-796-3788.

5/27-29 NG West Michigan Coastal Kayaker Symposium. Camp Pendalum on Big Blue Lake north of Muskegon. Many classes, demos, and lessons. If you want to rent a kayak, contact me early for information. Rated easy. Reservations required. \$75. Meal ticket (3 days) \$45. Carpooling. Jim Ledtke, 517-624-9195.

5/28 SEMG Indian Springs Hike. Meet for breakfast at 9am, then a relaxed, moderate 5-mile hike looking for birds and wildflowers on a lovely Spring morning. Meet at 9am in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side), north of Square Lake Rd in Bloomfield Township. Restaurant stop. June Cox, 248-435-9522.

5/28 NG (Sun) Elba Equestrian Complex Hike and Campfire. 7pm. 5 moderate miles. Located on Genesee/Lapeer County line north of Elba. I-69 to Elba Rd exit. North 4-5 miles to entrance on west side. Hike the ridge loop and meadow trail. Bring flashlight, chairs, food to roast and beverage. Cindy Engelmann, 810-743-0335. ⚡

ICE PICKS

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your weight dispersed by rolling away from the hole, in the direction from which you originally came. Once safely on shore, re-warm yourself with a roaring fire and change into some dry clothing.

Whether you invest some time or money in a pair of ice picks, it may well be the best investment you'll ever make. One thing I know for sure, you'll never catch me skiing or snowshoeing across a beaver pond without a pair of ice picks handy. ⚡

Michael Neiger of Marquette, Michigan is an avid winter camper and Central Upper Peninsula group trip leader. In January of 1998 he completed a 200-km, two-week, unsupported solo ski expedition to the Arctic Ocean via the Abitibi and Moose Rivers in northern Ontario. He has also skied solo across the Upper Peninsula twice. He welcomes your comments and opinions via e-mail at mneiger@hotmail.com.

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ADDRESS CHANGES

Please include old mailing label and send to:
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Sue Kelly, Vice Chair 810-227-9563
Fred Townsend, Secretary 248-627-3587
Helen LeBlanc, Treasurer..... 517-655-6454
Mike Johnson, 5th Officer..... 616-948-8840

At-Large Representatives

(Terms expire January 2000)

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**NEXT DEADLINE:
APRIL 8**

Send your Group Meetings and Outings to:
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Submit articles & photos to:
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PHOTO BY MICHAEL NEIGER

Big Falls on the Tahquamenon River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (Luce County)

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Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
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(415) 977-5639
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WHAT DOES THE SIERRA CLUB WORK TO DO?

To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

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